

# Six solutions for practitioners working with black and mixed heritage boys identified by User Voice

## Assess support needs

The boys often didn't believe they had any support needs or didn't know what support they should or could be getting.

It is important that an individualised assessment takes place, which considers the boy's personal circumstances, intersections of their identity, experiences of discrimination, strengths and underlying causes of their offending behaviour, to identify the specific support they need.



## Tailor interventions

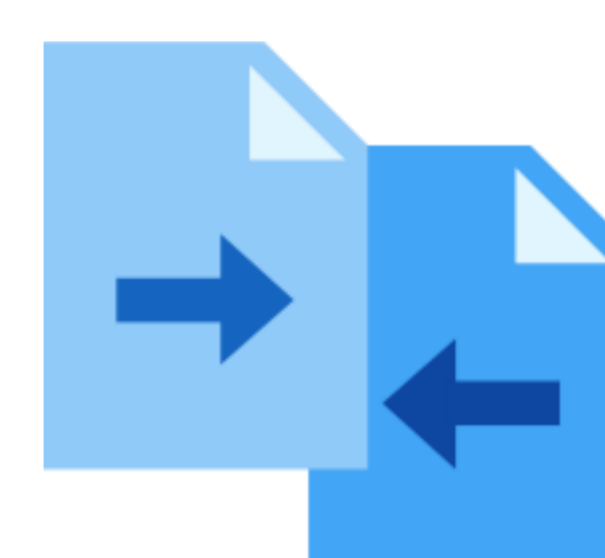
The activities offered must align with the interests of the child and address their needs, so that they see and experience the value of them.

## Address the underlying causes of offending behaviour

Practitioners need to understand the specific causes of the offending behaviour for each child and plan interventions to address these.

The boys identified peers as the biggest contributor to their offending behaviour.

The YOSs can help by signposting or organising activities to keep the boys actively engaged, occupying their time with constructive activities.



## Acknowledge & address profiling and discrimination

The boys spoke positively of instances when staff had shown awareness and consideration of their ethnicity.

Communication is key; ask about their experiences and the impact of this on their thinking and behaviour.



## Provide guidance and mentoring

Children need guidance on the range of career and educational opportunities available to them. Once the children identify the courses or jobs that they want to do, they need support to apply for these and sustain motivation.

Some of children had specific ambitions and identified the need for a mentor who had achieved what they wanted to achieve, and could advise and support them in their efforts.

## Provide clear guidance of what the boys should expect

The boys need a clear understanding of what their rights are and what service or support they should expect from YOSs.

There needs to be clear guidance for children on the processes, as well as their rights, expectations, responsibilities, and the level of support they should expect to receive.

